

THE GALLANT
HISTORY
OF THE
Life and Death
Of that most Noble Knight SIR
BEVIS
OF
Southampton.

Wherein is contained much Variety of Pleasant and Delightful
Reading.



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The Gallant
HISTORY
 OF
Bevis of Southampton

Of the Birth of Bevis, and of the Death of his Father.

In the Reign of Edgar, King of England, there was a most Renowned Knight, whose Name was Sir Guy, the Earl of Southampton, whose Deeds did exceed all the Valiant Knights of this Kingdom, who, thirsting after Fame, took himself to Travel: And first he sailed into France, Flanders, Almain, Brabant, Sicily, Denmark, Calice, Gascoine, Hungaria, Spain, Eastland, Norway, Picardy, Scotland, Lombardy, Wales: All these parts he travelled in his Youth, and Conquered all his Opposers with his Unmaster'd strength, and Victorious hand, fighting under the Banner of Christ, against all Villainaders whatsoever they were. Thus spending the best part of his strength for the Glory of Christ, and honour of his Country, he then returned into England again: King Edgar hearing

that Sir GUY was returned, sent a Messenger for him presently to do him honour for the valiant deeds that he had done: Sir GUY with all speed rode to the King, by whom he was royally entertained, and all his Nobles; and after great feasting, the King according to Sir GUY's desert, made him high Steward of England: then Sir GUY would betake him to a Wife, and the King of Scotland having a fair daughter, Sir GUY made suit unto her: But the Emperors brother of Almain was a suitor unto her likewise, and she loved Sir Murdure better than she loved Sir GUY, but the King, her father knowing Sir GUY to be a most Noble peer of England, he gave his daughter to him in Marriage: Yet still she affected Murdure best; but GUY not knowing her hatred to him returned with great pomp into England, with his deceiptful Lady. Not long after this he had a Son by her, and they named him Bevis: At the Birth of this Child was exceeding Joy and Triumph, with many Banquetings; then Sir GUY was confident his Ladys heart was firmly link'd to his, with the never-breaking bands of Love; but he good Knight was much deceived; for she (like Janus) bore a double face, one for Sir GUY, which frowned, but the other, which was for Sir Murdure, smiled, for his wife perceiving he was old, betook her self to love Sir Murdure, and called a servant to her, whom she might well trust, and said: Thou must sail into Almain with speed, and keep my secrets, and say unto Sir Murdure the Emperors brother, That I greet him kindly, and that I do desire him to provide a great company of Knights and gentlemen to come along with him to England, with all speed, and meet my Husband, which is hateful to me to look on, and tell him, that I will send Sir GUY into my forest, purposely to be Slain by Sir Murdure; and then tell him I am his: bid him perform this and live with me; the time he shall meet Sir GUY, shall be on the first of May. The message being delivered, Sir Murdure was resolued to perform what she had commanded. So on the first of May she feigned her self very sick and weak, and called for her husband, and said unto him, That she would desire him to go into the forest, and slay a Wild beast for her to Eat. This worthy Knight not thinking of her treachery, took a Steed, girt a sword about him, and with a Spear in his hand, rode to the forest with speed.

ON THE FIRST OF MAY

By

By this time Sir *Murdure* and his Company was entred the Forrest, who meeting Sir *GUY*, said, *Traytor, for the love I bear to thy Lady, thou shal quickly lose thy life, and after this, I'll Slay thy Son; for why? thy wife belongs to me.* With that Sir *GUY* set spurs to his horse, and Rode with such violence against this *Murdure*, that he threw him out of his saddle: then Sir *Murdure* thinking he should have been slain, cryed out to his Followers, who came presently and set upon Sir *GUY*, and swore he should lose his life, then Sir *GUY* desired but to fight with Sir *Murdure* hand to hand, and then if he lost his life, he would forgive them all, but they would not grant his Request, but slew him presently, and cut off his head, and sent it to his Lady, who Received it joyfully, and gave the Messenger a great Reward; this Treachery being accomplished, Sir *Murdure* made hast unto the Castle of Sir *GUY*, and there was Royally received of Sir *GUY*'s Wife; where for a while I leave them to their pleasures, and now come to speak of Young *Bevis*.



C H A P. 2.

How Bevis kept Sheep: and how he went to his Fathers House, and Slew the Porter of the gate, and many other things that happened.

BEVIS hearing how basely his Father was killed, ran to his Mother, and vowed if ever he came to age, that he would be Revenged on her, and on that base *Traytor*, Sir *Murdure*. With that his Mother gave her son a Box on the Ear, which felled poor *Bevis* to the ground: Sir *Sabre*, being brother to Sir *GUY*, was very sorrowful for the Death of his brother, and seeing his Nephew so misused, catch'd him up in his arms and carried him away: his Mother sent presently after Sir *Sabre*, privately to mother her son *Bevis*, Sir *Sabre* said he would, and drest *Bevis* in old cloaths,

Cloaths, and sent him to keep his Sheep: So *Bevis* went to the top of a Hill near his Father's Castle, where his Uncle's Sheep were. In the mean time Sir *Sabere* killed a pig, and dip't the Garments of the Child in the blood thereof; poor *Bevis* all this while sat weeping upon the Hill, but hearing Trumpets sounding at his Father's Castle, and much melody for joy that his Mother had obtained her desire. *Bevis* cast off care of keeping Sheep, and ran with his Shepherds crook on his shoulder to the Castle, and knocking at the gate, the porter denied him entrance: with that young *Bevis* with his crook gave him such a bang on the crown, which told the porter to the Earth, then into the Hall he went, where Sir *Murdare* sat at table with his Mother, and many Knights and Ladys (though all in Rags he shewed them of what house he came on) & with a violent blow, struck Sir *Murdare* under the Table, and swore if it had not been against Nature, he would send his Mother after his own Father. With that all the Knights in the Hall sought to lay hands on him, but *Bevis* forced his way through the midst of them, & got clear away: Sir *Sabere* meeting *Bevis* running from the Castle, said, *Where hast thou been?* *Bevis* answered, *as my fathers Castle, where I slew the Porter of the Gate, and knockt my father under the Table, and was about to kill my Mother, but that Nature taught me the Contrary: alas, said his Uncle, thou hast beryed us both, yet once more will I save thee.* The Mother of *Bevis* (like a woman Distracted of her wits) came running to her Brother in great hast, and said: *What hast thou not stain that young *Vilian*?* *Madam*, quoth he, *he is dead: *Vilian*, said she, thou lyest, if thou dost not make him away the sooner, it shall cost thy life, and his both: *Madam*, said he, *hebold his Cloaths dipped in blood: *Bevis*, hearing her speeches, leapt out of the chamber, and was ready to tear her in pieces, but she escaped out of his hands by the help of her brother, then she entreated Sir *Sabere*, and another Knight to cast *Bevis* into the Sea and drown him, which they did consent unto to pacifie her wrath.**

C H A P. 3.

How Bevis was sold unto the Paniams, and carried over the Sea into Armiony, and presented to King Ermine.]

AND going to the Sea-side, they met with Merchants of *Armiony*, Sir *Sabere* sold *Bevis* to them; the Merchants soon arrived in *Armiony*, and then presented *Bevis* unto the King, the King gave them many thanks, and swore by his God *Alphonnd*, he never saw such a sweet fac'd boy in all his life: Then the King asked him where he was born? In *England*, said *Bevis*. Whole Son wast thou there? said the King, Sir *Guy's* of *Southampton*, quoth *Bevis*: I have heard much talk of thy Father, said the King, and by report he was a Valiant Knight as ever, et drew Sword: I have but one fair Daughter (said the King) and if thou wilt forsake thy GOD, and serve *Apolise* our God, thou shalt have my daughter to Wife, and enjoy my Kingdom after me. Not so, my Lord said *Bevis* for all the beautys in the world I would not deny my Creator. Then (said the King) wilt thou be my Chamberlain? and when I find thy desert, I'll dub thee a Knight, and thou shalt bear my Standard in the field against my Foes. What you please to command me my Lord, said he, save the denying of my God, I will do. *Bevis* was so beloved of the King, that none durst speak against him; nay, *Josian* the King's daughter was in love with him. As it chanced on *Christmas-day*, *Bevis* Rode into the field to recreate himself, & meeting with three-score *Sarazens*, one of them asked him what day it was? *Bevis*, answered, I know not, for I was not seven years old when I came out of my own Country. Then, said the *Sarazens*, upon this day thy God was born, and wilt thou not honour thy God on his Birth-day. Yes, said *Bevis*, if I was as well armed as my father was, you should know that I would honour this day better than ever you honoured your God *Apolise*. With that they all run upon him, thinking to kill him presently; but *Bevis* having no Weapon, got one of their swords away, & with the same made their steeds to run home without their Riders; for he flew and wounded all the *Sarazens*. The King hearing what *Bevis* had done against his god *Apolise*, swore he

he should dye ; then *Yosian* down on her knees, and desired her Father that *Bevis* might live, which the King granted : Then *Yosian* went to *Bevis* and kissed him, and dressed his Wounds, and then she brought him to the King her Father ; who, when he saw *Bevis* so Wounded, the tears Ran down his cheeks, and then he prayed *Yosian* to do the best she could to cure his wounds, which she performed in a little space, so *Bevis* grew as found as ever he was,



C H A P. 4.

How Bevis one Morning Slew a mighty Wild Boar, in the forrest.

W ithin that country there was a great Forrest, and within the same there was a mighty Wild Boar, that Devoured Man, Woman, and Child ; *Bevis* hearing of him, one morning early he saddled his *Steed*, and took a good sword by his side, and Rode to the *forrest* to try a combat with this wild Boar ; and Riding to and fro, it was his luck to find the cave where this Wild Boar was, and as he tied his *Steed* to the tree, out came the Boar, and so assailed *Bevis*, that he was fain to shrink back : Then *Bevis* Recovering ground, made at him with a spear, and burst it all in pieces ; then he drew out his sword, and laid many a heavy blow upon the Boars bristles, but could not make any entrance into the flesh ; and at last by good Fortune the *boar* came at him with an open mouth, and *Bevis* having that advantage, with one violent blow cut his upper Jaw assunder ; at which the *boar* gave such a cry as would have frightened a thousand men, had they been in the hearing of it : Then into his throat *Bevis* thrust his sword & killed him outright, and with much ado cut off his head, and stuck it upon the *Truncheon* of his Spear, and so mounted himself upon his *Steed*, and as he was Riding homewards, twelve *forristers* set upon him to take the *Boars-head* away, that they might get the honour which *Bevis* had ventered his life for : and indeed *Bevis* was unprovided, for he (with very joy that he had slain the boar) left his sword behind him ; but yet he made a pretty shif with them, for he killed

kill'd nine of them, and the other three ran a way, and then Bevis had free way to Ride to the Court without any hindrance. There was many spectators to behold Bevis with the Boars Head, among which company was fair *Josian*, beholding Bevis with great Joy; and Bevis seeing *Josian* smile, began to Ride Majestically towards her, and entered the Court, fair *Josian* had him welcome, & brought him to the King: so when Bevis presented the boars head, the King received it, and gave Bevis many thanks, and swore by *Almighty*, for slaying the Boar he would do him great Honour;

C H A P. 5.

How Bevis was made a Knight, and General of Twenty Thousand Men, to go against Brandmond.

About this time King *Brandmond* sent an Ambassador unto King *Ermine*, to have fair *Josian* to his Wife, or else he would beat him out of his Country: Then *Ermine* assembled all his Lords and Barons together, to advise what to do, some said it was better to let *Josian* go, rather than to hazard the loss of his Crown and Kingdom: *Josian* knowing their Resolution, spoke to her Father in this manner: Father (said she) if you will be pleased so make Bevis General over an Host of Men, he would maintain your Right, and conquer your Foes. The King hearing of his Daughters words, sent for Bevis and dubb'd him a Knight, & chose out twenty thousand men to go under Sir Bevis's command: Then *Josian* fitted on his Armour, & gave him a sword called *Morglay*, then she brought him a Steed called *Aurdel*; so Sir Bevis being mounted, *Josian* viewed him well, and smiled at him, and Bevis smiled on her again; and then saluting her, away he Rode with all his Host against *Brandmond* and his Host: *Brandmond* seeing Bevis's Army to be no more, laughed at them: Dost thou laugh, said Bevis? I'll make thee know the time that ever thou camest hither. Then setting his Golden spurs to his Steed he ran full drive at *Brandmond*, that *Brandmond* thought sure he should have dyed at that hour, and

seeing *Radison* was slain, his heart began to faint : The armies both did fight courageously, and many men were lost on both sides : then *Brandmond* took two of *Boris*'s Knights prisoners, but *Boris* met with them, and felled *Brandmond* to the ground, horse and all, and took him Prisoner : O Sir, said *Boris*, I'll have you to *Josian* : save my life, cryed *Brandmond*, and have me whither thou wilt : so *Boris* returned with great Vistory, and was Royally entertained of the King, and then *Josian* broke her mind to *Boris*, quoth she, by *Mayboun*, I do desire to be thy Love : Not so Lady, said *Boris*, I'll wed no Heathenelles ; which words she took very scornfully ; *Boris* perceiving her anger, said, Lady adieu, for I shall never see you again, and so he left her, and went to his Chamber ; then *Josian*'s heart began to throb, and what to do she knew not ; at last she sent two Knights unto him, to desire him to come unto her, but *Boris* would not ; then she went her self, and said, my Lord, I would entreat you not to leave me now, but grant me that I shall be thy Wife, and I'll do whatsoever thou wilt have me to do ; I'll forsake my Gods and turn a Christian for your sake, Sir Knight, or any thing else that will please you : at these words Sir *Boris*'s heart began to melt, and being overjoyed, he took her in his arms and kissed her ; The two Knights that *Boris* redeemed from *Brandmond*, hearing what words passed between *Boris* and *Josian*, told to the King, which made him mad with *Boris* ; so bring *Boris* to his end, the King wrote Letters to *Brandmond* to put *Boris* to Death, who was the Bearer of the Letters, where I will leave him, and speak a little of *Boris*'s Uncle, Sir *Sabre*, who was much grieved for *Boris*, and sent his son *Terry* in search for him, who travelled many Heathen Lands, yet could not find out *Boris* ; but he swore never to see England again, if he found him not.

C H A P. 6.

How Bevis went on his Journey with Letters from King Ermine, to King Brandmond, which concerned his own life, and how he fought with the Sarazens in Damas, and how he pull'd down the Idols, and how they put him in Prison, and what after befel.

Then took *Bevis* his Letters, and posted away towards the Land of *Perry*, and as he Rode, he saw a Palmer, to whom he said: What Country-man are you good Palmer? I am an *English-man* (said the Palmer) and seek for one I cannot find: What is his Name? (said *Bevis*) His name is *Bevis*, said the Palmer, my Fathers Brothers Son: I have heard of his Name, quoth he, but I do not know him: I would I could find him, said the Palmer: he is about these Country's, said he: so after some discourse they parted; for *Bevis* would not make himself known, but away Rode he to *Damas* City, where the King did live, which was a most stately place: and entring into the streets, the Heathens were sacrificing to their gods, which was odious for him to behold: What Devil do you serve here? said *Bevis*, and run to the god *Mahound*, and pulled him down from the Altar, and threw him into the Channel: Then all the *Sarazens* fought with *Bevis*, but he plaid his part so valiantly, that he made the streets to run down with blood; for he laid about him so fast, that there was full two hundred *Sarazens* killed that bout: Then some went to the King and told him all that had besel to the god *Mahound*, and how many were killed; the King all in a Rage, swore by *Mahound* *Apoline*, and *Trigenant*, he should dye for his bold attempe, and as the King was going to see what he should be that had done this Outrage, *Bevis* met him at the gate of his Pallace, and seeing the King, fell down on his knees, and delivered his message: The King took the Letters and did read them, and they proved Treason against poor *Bevis*; to this effect they were: That King *Brandmond* should put *Bevis* to death: thus *Ermine* betrayed him that before had kept him from Destruction: *Bevis* seeing what he must trust to, with manly courage began to make another great slaug-
B 2 ter

ter amongst them, four or five at every blow he brought to the ground, he struck such heavy stroaks that his Sword broke, & after with his Fists brought to the ground fifty Sarazens more: At last the multitude overcome him, and bound his hands that he could not stir. *Alas*, said Bevis, *Let me not dye a Dogs death, but give me an Horse and Armor, and a good Sword, and I will fight against an hundred thousand of you, so I die fairly in the field I care not:* but all cryed out against him, and said Hang him, others said burn him, some said starve him to Death: Then bespake the King: He shall be devoyted by the two Dragons in the Dungeon, with that they were all contented: so in the Dungeon was he cast, but they untyed his hands by good fortune: In the Dungeon he found the Truncheon of a spear: The Dragons seeing a prey, made at him very strongly, but he dispatcht them both, and then he was at rest a whilie.

C H A P E R 7:1: his 100 years

How Josian Demanded of her Father what was become of Bevis.

Father, said Josian, where is Sir Bevis? Me Replyed, he is gone to his Countrey. At this time came King Yar, intending to wed Josian, which he obtained. And Ermine gave her dandan and Morglay, which belonged to Bevis. This Josian no way could avoid: Now all this time Bevis was in Prison, and the Keepers would go down to see him, being he had been there before by seven years, and fed with nothing but Fleas and Water, they thought he was wondrous feeble, but he was so strong, that he kill'd them both, being mi night, & so got out clear, & took a steed and away he rode: Now when he was gone, they quickly followed, and Sir Grandes mounted on Tranchisise, overtook him: With that Bevis turned about, and smote Grandes on the head, which blow clove him in synder down to the gidle; then Bevis leapt off his steed, and got upon Tranchisise, then he rode forward again: By this time many thousands of Sarazens were in pursuite after him, & followed him so close, that he was forced on Tranchisise back to swiar over the River; and when he was come to Land, with very

very hunger he was ready to faint; and as he rid along, he saw a Castle, where a great ugly Gyant lived, that was Sir Grandere's Brother; thither he hyed, and boyned at the Gate, which roused the Gyant out of a Dream, and coming out, said, How now Fellow? what art thou weary of thy life? How camst thou by Trunchiffe, my Brother's Steed? Why said Bevis, as I served thy brother, so I'll serve thee presently: I come for Food, and that I shall have before I go: Wilt thou so, quoth the Gyant; by Apulines I swear thou shalt win it before thou hast it; I, said Sir Bevis, I'll Dine at thy Castle, and thou shalt sup with the Devil; shall I so, quoth he, and up with a mighty bar of Iron, and struck at him, which blow he wonderfully miss'd, but it beat out Trunchiffe's brains: Bevis seeing that, nimbly leapt out of his saddle, and laid upon the Gyant most stoutly: The Gyant finding that he was very stroag, with a violent force he struck a Datt into his shoulder, then in the heat of blood he made a full blow at the Gyant, which parted his head from his body: then into the Castle went Bevis, and forced the Gyant's wife to fast both Meat and Drink, & he fed after her: Then into the Stable he went, and took a goodly horse, and rode away from thence to find out fair Josian, whom he dearly loved: and it happened that he met with a poor Palmer, to whom he said, Who liveth in yonder Castle? Marry quoth the Palmer, there dwelleth King Jour, that married the fair Lady Josian; and is aye Queen living, said he? Yes, Sir Knight, said the poor Palmer: I will give thee my Steed for thy Weed, said he, with all my beast, reply'd the Palmer, and thank you too: then he leaped off his back, and gave his Steed to the Palmer, and so put on the Palmers Weed, then he took his way to the Castle, where he found abundance of Joys more than he looked for, but at the first Josian did not know him, yet still he and she talked, that he got so far into Josian's favour, that she gave him leave to see Arundel; and then she knew Sir Bevis: For his Steed Arundel sheazing him speak, broke seven hains asunder, and Neighed: Then Josian took Bevis aside into her Garden, and there they both concluded to be gone: Boniface her Chamberlain was a trusty friend unto her, and vowed to farther their Journey, he would do his best: Then said Josian to Bevis; My Lord, you shall stay about my Castle a while, and you shall say

say to the King that you came from *Jury*, and that King *Bradwin* is besieged by the King of *Syrack*, and how he is like to lose his Kingdom: In the mean time King *Jour* came home, and *Bevis* told him all that *Josian* bid him: *Why sent he not to me*, said the King? *He did send*, replyed he, *but his messengers were taken by Syrack*: then *Jour* swore by *Mahound* he would Revenge his Brothers wrong: so with all speed he raised an army, and went to help his Brother, and left Sir *Grassy* to Rule in his stead till his return; King *Jour* being gone, they gave Sir *Grassy* a sleepy Drink, which made him lie like one that was dead for four and forty hours; in the mean time *Bevis*, *Josian*, and *Boniface*, got great store of Monys, and costly Jewels, and then away they came for *England*; and as these three travelled, they were so hard pursued by Sir *Grassy*, that they were forced to take for their succour a Cave for shelter, so there they stayed all one night; next morning Sir *Bevis* went out to kill some Beast or other to dress for *Josian*, for she was hungry: the while *Bevis* was abroad, there came into the Cave two dreadful Lyons which slew poor *Boniface* and eat him; whilst *Josian* trembling with fear, the Lyons went to her & laid their heads in her lap: by this time *Bevis* returned unto the Cave, and seeing the blood and bones of *Boniface*, wondered at it, & entering the cave, *Josian* said, *Good Bevis be careful, for there is two Lyons in the Cave with me, and they have slain Boniface and eaten him*; *Bevis* answered, *art thou alive*? *by this I know thou art a pure Maid*. *Josian* replied, *I will hold the one, while thou kill the other*: *Nay* (said he) *let them both come together*; then *Josian* set them both at liberty, and they came full drive at him; but he, with his good *Morglay*, slew them both presently; & so the quarrel was ended: then *Bevis* and *Josian* refresht themselves, & rode onward on their Journey; and as they went, there met them *Ascapart* an ugly Gyant, who was thirty foot in length, and a foot between his Eye-brows, he was bristled like a swine, and his blubber lips hung a one side; and meeting, *Ascapart* said, *Stand, thou and thy Lady must go alone with me*: *Not so*, said *Bevis*, *but I shall have but one of us, for I will try my Manhood with thee first, and if you get the day, take it and welcome*: then *Josian* held *Arundel* the whilst he fought with *Ascapart*; the fight continued a long time, yet *Bevis* avoiding his heavy blows, gave *Ascapart* many a wound, made

made him roar extremely ; and being mad, he laid at him with his cruel bat, thinking for to beat out his brains, but with that stroak his foot slipt, & down he fell ; *Bevis* would have smote off his head, but *Jofian*, being pitiful, said, *Do not so, let him go with us ; Lady* (said *Bevis*) *we may betray us : by all my gods, said Ascopard,* *I swear if thou wilt save my life, I will be true to thee and thy Lady,* and do you all the service I can. Then rise and live, said *Bevis* : So *Bevis* and *Jofian* mounted *Arandel*, and away they rode, with *Ascopard* by their side, till they came to the *Sea*, where they found many *Sarazens*, and a ship bound for *Christendom*, but the *Sarazens* would not ferry them to the ship ; then *Bevis* & *Ascopard* made great slaughter among them, and killed abundance of them ; then said *Ascopard*, let me alone, I will carry you to the ship, horse and all : so he took the horse under his arm, with *Bevis* and *Jofian*, and waded to the ship, where they had welcome, & so sailed into the land of *Colen*, where dwelt a *Bishop* that was *Bevis's* Kinsman, who bad them very welcome ; and after much discourse, the *Bishop* said, What Country Lady is this ? *Bevis* answered, The King of *Almonies* Daughter, and she would become a Christian for my sake ; and what ill favoured Lubber is this ? (said the *Bishop*) He is my Page, said he, and *Jofian* and he would fain be Christened. This Lubber is too big to be carried by a *Midwife* to the *Font*, said the *Bishop*. That is true, quoth *Sir Bevis*. But in the end, *Jofian* was Christened by the *Bishop*, and *Ascopard* had a *Font* made on purpose (to be Christened in) that was very large ; but when he came to be christened, Out Devil (quoth *Ascopard*) thou wile drench me, I am too big to be Christened by thee ; and leapt over the *Font*, and away he went.

C H A P. 8.

How Bevis Slew a Dreadful Dragon, and what after chanced.



Bevis being in bed, heard a Knight cry / Ror, / Ror, at which
 sad noise Bevis wondred, and the next Morning he asked what
 was the cause of that noise: He was a Knight, said they, that com-
 ing through the streets the Dragon met with, and set her Vomme
 upon him, wherof he died and dyed. Where is that Dragon? said Bevis. Not far from this Place, said they. Then Bevis
 called Ascapart to go with him, and Ascapart was very willing:
 So together they went, and when they came near the place where
 the Dragon was, they heard the dreadfulllest Yell that ever was:
 What Devil is that? quoth Ascapart. It is the Dragon said Bevis, we shall see him anon. I'll go no further, said Asca-
 part, if she Roars so loud before we come to her, what will she
 do when we fight with her. Fear not, said Bevis, we will teach
 her how to hold her Tongue. Marry teach her thy self, said
 Ascapart,

Ascapars, for I will go back again: Then farewell, said Bevis, I will go my self; so forward went Bevis, and backward went *Ascapars*, Bevis coming near her Den, she made forth, but never was such a Dragon seen in the world as this was, from her head to Tail was full forty foot, her scales glimmered as bright as silver, and hard as flint; have-at thy Devils face said Bevis, and out he drew his good *Aderyn*, & on the Dragon laid him but her face was so hard as iron, and never entered into the Dragon, struck Bevis to the ground, and say he got again, but he durst not so fierce alit: Bevis went back, and by chance fell into a Well, else the Dragon had destroyed him; it seems the well was holy water, & no venom might come within seven foot of it: then Bevis refreshed himself and drank of the water, and recovering his strength, to the Dragon he came again to have the fight, and when the Dragon assailed him to the ground, he durst not strike him, for fear he should have lost his life, yet while a violent storm by chance did blow, the Dragon finding him so strong, began to roar, and to blow her fire, which full her head to the ground, and when she did blow her fire, the Dragon rising to his feet, and casting her fire, so that he swam into the water, and when he did come up, he did venom and made himself free and so made his way to the town, and fought a long time, the Dragon went before him, and thinking to slay her self, lifted up her wings, but as she now, said Bevis, and with one sound blow, hit her on the wing, which pierc'd her to the heart; with that she gave such a cry, which made the earth tremble; she being dead, Bevis took her by the tail, and ran it upon his Spear, and so rock him: And when the people saw him coming, they gave a great shout, as at a Kings Coronation, and all the bells in the town did ring, and all manner of Mischick play'd before Bevis, as he rode through the Town, where, with great joy, his Uncle receiv'd him.

C H A P. 9.

How Bevis raised an Army against Sir Murdure.

NOW Bevis was willing to give over Travel, and see to get his
Souldiers of his Uncle, and failed into England, and landell near
unto Southampton, and sent a Kynge unto Sir Murdure, to tell
him that a Knight of Almain, hearing of his troublis, was come
to aid and assit him against Sir Sabre. The Knight having told
his Message, Sir Murdure desired to see him. Bevis knowing that,
weng to the Cattles Sir Murdure and his Wife bid him very wel-
come, and then desired to know his Name, my Name is *Gerrard*
said Bevis, and I hearing of these Wars, having brought over a
Hundren Chosen Men, to help to maintain your right. I give you
thanks, said Sir Murdure; but you must furnish us with Horse and
Arms (quoth Bevis), and of the best I have too, for every
Man shall stile his own Steed and Arms, said Sir Murdure.
Then haye at Sir Sabre, said Bevis. So to supper they went,
and after supper, Sir Murdure, to make his master good, said
Bevis, that the Castle was once another Knights that was his
Predecessor. And said he, by Misfortun was Slain: Had he ne-
ver a Child by his Lady? Yes, said Sir Murdure: Is he Dead or
he told me his Castle, and all his Inheritance, and spent the Mo-
ney, and went beyond sea; and what is become of him I cannot
tell: If he were such a one said Bevis, it is no matter where he is.
So after many several discourses of Foreign Countrys, to Bed they
went, and then Bevis and his Men were furnished with all things
fitting for service. Ships being prepared for that purpose, they
took their leaves of Sir Murdure and his Lady for that time, and
failed to the Isle of White, where Sir Sabre dwelt.

C H A P.

C H A P. 10.

How a Knight Wedded fair Josian in Colen, against her Will, and
what after befel.



Josian all this while was in Colen with Ascapart ; in that Country lived a Knight, called the Earl of Mil, who loved Josian, but she would not yield unto his will ; to take her by force he durst not, for fear of Ascapart : therefore he wrote Letters in the Name of Sir Bevis, that Ascapart should come to him : When he had done, he sent the Letters to Josian, and she received them as from Sir Bevis, and Reading them, she was very glad to hear

from her dearest Friend: So she gave the bearer a great Reward, and sent *Ascapart* with him, not thinking how she was betray'd: Whenas they came to the Castle, *Ascapart* was put into a dungeon, instead of seeing his Master: then the lustful Earl went to *Yofian*, and told her how he had served her, and *Ascapart* was fast in the Castle: *Haſt then ſerved me ſo*, ſaid ſhe, *thine not hereby o-ve-er to have thy will on me*: Then the villian would have Reviſhed her, but ſhe (rather than ſuffer Rape) yielded to marry him: then he was very joyful, and, ſent for all the Knights & Scotlemen, & the next day was marryed to *Yofian*: and after great ſcarlking at Night, to bed the went, and all his valiant Knights was in the Chamber with him: then *Yofian* (to have opportunity) pray'd him to ſend all the company away, which was performed preſently: the Curtains being cloſe about the bed, ſhe made a Nooſe, and as he ſat by the bed-side, ſhe ſlipping it over his head strangled him, & hung him over a beam: In the morning his Friends came to give him Joy: *Yofian* ſaid, look where he hangs: then they were all amazed, yet they took *Yofian*, and carried her to a Stake to be burned. In the mean time *Ascapart* broke out of the Castle, and got into a Fisher-boat, then rowing himſelf to land, he met with *Bevis*, and told all that had happened: So they both went and found *Yofian* at a Stake to be burned; there they fought couragiouſly, and released *Yofian*, and they went all three to Sir *Sabre*, where they were royally eſtartained.

C H A P. 11.

How Bevis and Sir Sabre raised Arms againſt Mordure, with other things that happened.

Then *Bevis* ſent word to Sir *Mordure*, that he thanked him for his Arms, and bid him prepare for battle, Sir *Mordure* and his Host came to the *Isle of White*, where *Bevis* was with him, and between them was a bloody battle: Sir *Sabre*, *Bevis*, and *Ascapart* made ſuch havock with them that they flew all that came near them; and *Ascapart* took Sir *Mordure* and carried him to the

the Tower, and put him in a Gaol on or boyling Pitch and Brimstone: the Almain's Army fled, and the king of England with his forces, ran away: Sir Marke's Lady seeing this, threw self



down from the Castle, and broke her neck; then Bevis gave rich gifts to the Souldiers, and was placed in Southampton: then he married Joyce, and afterwards went to do damage to king Edgar, who was exceeding joyful to see Bevis, and made him Lord Marshal of England: the king's son would have bought Arundel, but Bevis would not sell it for gold, nor silver: then the prince would take him by force, but coming into the Stable, Arundel beat out his brains; the king hearing this, was in wrath with Bevis, and swore he should die: but at last it was concluded, he should only be banished the land: so Bevis surrendered all his whole Estate to Sir Savy, and took Joyce, Terry, and Asperon along with him, and

And as they went, *Jofian* fell in labour; then were they in a Forrest, and *Jofian* bid them walk away till she was delivered; So *Terry* & *Bruis* went together, and *Ascapars* went another way; and when she was delivered, *Ascapars* came to *Jofian*, and carried her away: *Bruis* and *Terry* came and found two Children, but not the Mother, so *Bruis* took the Infants, naming the eldest *Guy*, and the younger *Miles*, and went his way, and in his Journey met accidentally with a Sorcifer and a Fisher, whom with good thore of gold he hired to take his Children to *Armeny*, & bring them at seven years end, abiding there *Ervin*, King of *Armeny*, and they should be rewarded in their reward. Then took the Sorcifer and the Fisher, promising to perform a strange commandment, and so did; and his Sons were saved; but *Sorcifer* and *Fisher* went with him to *Armeny*, and *Bruis* in *Palace* *Armeny*, and so did *Terry* took him to *Armeny*, and *Ervin*, King of *Armeny*, found with him, and set him on the place. Thus he redeemed his Sons, *Guy* and *Miles*, and carrying them to an Inn, there he sent for *Terry*, and *Bruis*, and they did complain their happlinesse, and *Sorcifer* and *Fisher*, and *Bruis* and *Terry* did give them great Riches, and caused them to be made Knights: soon after this, there began a fierce War between *your King of *Armeny**, and *Ervin*, King of *Armeny*, for *Jofian's* sake; whereupon *Bruis* went to the aid of *Ervin*, and took King *Jow* prisoner, for whose Ransome, he had Twenty tun of Gold, and three Hundred white Steeds.

King *Ervin* was so highly affected with his favour, that for *Bruis*, his sake, he turned Christian, and a little before his decease, Crowned *Guy* King of *Armeny*, and *Miles* he made a Knight, where they lived a spise in great happiness and felicity, but King *Jow* bearing animward grudge, or inverrate malice against *Bruis*, he once more desired to try the fortune of war with him; so he raised a great Army of Heathenish *Saxons*, who with undaunted Courage assailed *Bruis* in *Armeny*, being led on by King *Jow* himself in person. These charged not so gallantly, but they were repulsed as bravely, and in those time totally routed the unconquerable power of our English Knights. In this skirmish, Sir *Bruis* meeting King *Jow*, had a single combat with him, in which fight,

after

after many bloody stroaks on both sides, king *Yeur* was slain, & his Army was wholly vanquished: *Bevis* then putting on the Armor of king *Yeur*, rode to the City of *Mambrant*, where he was received and welcomed home by the people: instead of their king: He no sooner got possession of the place, but he made them all become his Servants, and renounce their false gods, and turn Christians, and by this means, his fair Lady *Jofian*, was the second time at *Mambrant*.

C H A P. 12
Concerning the Conclusion of the History.

W^Hilst *Sabre* continued thus with *Bevis*, tydings came unto him, that his wife was diliberated by *Edgar*, king of England; whereupon, he, with *Bevis*, *Jofian*, and his two Sons, *Guy* and *Miles*, marcht to *London* with a great Army, and fought against king *Edgar*, slayng two thou and of his Souldiers for the wrongs which he had done unto him, and to *Sabre*, and then he returned to *Southampton*, where king *Edgar* sent unto him for a party, and in the conclusion made a peace with him, and agreed to marry his eldest Daughter unto *Miles* (*Bevis* his Son) whom at that time (1066) he made Earl of *Cornwall*, the wedding being solemnized with great Joy, and variety of Courtly Recreations, Sir *Bevis*, *Wichofian*, and *Guy* his eldest Son remained to their several homes. After that, *Bevis* lived in *Mambrant*, and then *Jofian* fell sick, who was accompanied with her beloved Husband both in sickness and in Death: they dyed both in one day, and were solemnly interred in one Grave, by *Guy* their son, who raised a stately Tomb over them, to the Everlasting Memory of so Gallant a Knight, and his most Royal Constant Lady.

So I conclude his Romance. All his best Rec'd.
For Time and Death bring all things to an END.

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